[English]

Wakf Board

3560. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have enacted an Act by virtue of which all the committees/relating to the Delhi Wakf Board have ceased to exist;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Act has come into force;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which the Act is likely to come into force?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government have enacted the Wakf Act, 1995. Section 112 of the said Act provides that the Wakf Act, 1954 and the Wakf (Amendment) Act, 1984 as also any law which correspond to this Act in a State stand repealed with the enforcement of the Central Act of 1995. According to the advice tendered by the Ministry of law, with the enforcement of the Wakf Act, 1995, the Bodies including the State Wakf Boards, constituted and established under the Wakf Act, 1954, or State Wakf laws, shall stand dissolved.

(c) The Wakf Act, 1995 has been enforced in the country (except the State of Jammu and Kashmir to which it does not extend) with effect from 01.01.1996.

(d) and (e). Do not. arise.

[Translation]

Legislation to Curb/End Casteism

3561. SHRI GANGS CHARAN RAJPUT : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the States where Caste riots occurred due to increasing casteism in the country;

(b) whether the Government would take steps to end casteism;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to enact legislation with a view to end casteism by preventing people to use their surname as prefix or suffix;

(d) if so, the time by which the Government propose to introduce this Bill; and

(e) whether the Government intend to issue ordinance to ban the use of surname by the top bureaucrats?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) The information is being collected, and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) Various provisions already exist under law's such as the Protection of Civil Rights Act and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act to check and deter certain offences arising out of casteism. Measures such as incentives provided in several States for inter-caste marriage, which are supported by Central Assistance, also encourage individual and societal efforts to overcome caste distinctions.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

Chandpur Reform Home

3562. SHRI BHIMRAO VISHNUJI BADADE : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to starvation one hundred inmates of Chandpur Reform Home of Bijnam district ran away by breaking window of the home;

(b) whether the police personnels were taking rest at the time whe these prisoners ran away; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to prevent such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) to (c). Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

[English]

Transferring of Wakf Properties

3563. KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any complaints have been received regarding the illegal transfer and corrupt practice in handing over the Wakf properties; and

(b) if so, details of the action taken to save these properties State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) and (b). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Drug Policy

3564. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated a comprehensive drug policy for augmenting production of drugs including essential drugs on a massive scale through heavy investment both by the domestic/private sector and multinational companies to meet our requirements and also for the exports;